

Eria nepalensis (Orchidaceae), a New Species from Nepal

Devendra M. BAJRACHARYA^a and Krishna K. SHRESTHA^b

^aAmrit Campus, Tribhuvan University, Lainchaur, Kathmandu, NEPAL;

^bCentral Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, NEPAL

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A new species *Eria nepalensis* D.M.Bajracharya & K.K.Shrestha (Orchidaceae), belonging to the section *Dendrolirium*, is described and illustrated from Nepal.

Key words: *Eria*, Himalaya, new species, Orchidaceae, sect. *Dendrolirium*.

The genus *Eria* Lindl. is one of the largest genera of the family Orchidaceae, with an estimated 350 species worldwide, and divided into 13 to 17 groups according to the nature of pseudobulbs and leaves. During a revisionary study of *Eria* of the Himalayan region, we have collected a specimen from Royal Chitwan National Park, Sauraha, Chitwan, Central Nepal in 2000. We found that the specimen represents a new species closely allied to *E. latilabellis* Seid. and *E. lasiopetala* (Willd.) Ormerod, but distinct from them with several characters. The description of the new species is given below.

Eria nepalensis D.M.Bajracharya & K.K. Shrestha, sp. nov. [Fig. 1]

Affinis *Eria latilabellis* Seid. habitatio, sed bracteis oblongi-lanceolatis, naviculiformibus, extus viridibus, labello distincte trilobato diversa et affinis *E. lasiopetala* (Willd.) Ormerod, lobo medio labelli quadrangulati, emarginato vel bifido differt.

Type: NEPAL; Chitwan, Sauraha, Royal Chitwan National Park, alt. 200 m, 26 Feb. 2000, D. M. Bajracharya CN 260 (KATH-holotype; TUCH-isotype).

Epiphytic herbs, 15–17 cm high with dis-

tingent spreading rhizomes; pseudobulb ovate, laterally compressed, 4–5 cm long, 5–6 cm diameter, half of the pseudobulb covered by leaf sheaths; leaf sheaths membranaceous, reddish brown. Leaves 3, coriaceous, short petiolate, overlapping to the pseudobulbs, ovate-oblong, acute, narrow at base, 11–13 cm × 3.5–4.5 cm, 7–9-veined. From the base of the old pseudobulbs two shoots develop simultaneously, one sterile which will form next years pseudobulb, the other forming the 20 cm long stiffly erect inflorescence, scape covered by leaf sheaths at base, about 10 cm long, rachis cylindrical. Bract oblong-lanceolate, acute, glabrous, boat-shaped, 4 × 1.5 cm, green, coriaceous, longer than pedicel plus ovary. Pedicel plus ovary 2–2.5 (–3) cm long, covered by white tomentose hairs. Flowers yellow, 3–5 in number, opposite, decussate, lax in an inflorescence and tomentose. Sepals unequal, oblong-lanceolate, densely tomentose outside; dorsal sepal 1.7 × 0.5 cm, lanceolate, obtuse; lateral sepals 1 × 0.9 cm, falcate, oblong, acute. Petals 1 × 0.4 cm, parallel to column, obliquely lanceolate, obtuse, glabrous. Labellum distinctly tri-lobed, broadest, ca. 1.3 cm long, 0.6–0.7 cm broad at middle, terminal lobe rectangular, emarginate, bifid, recurved, cre-

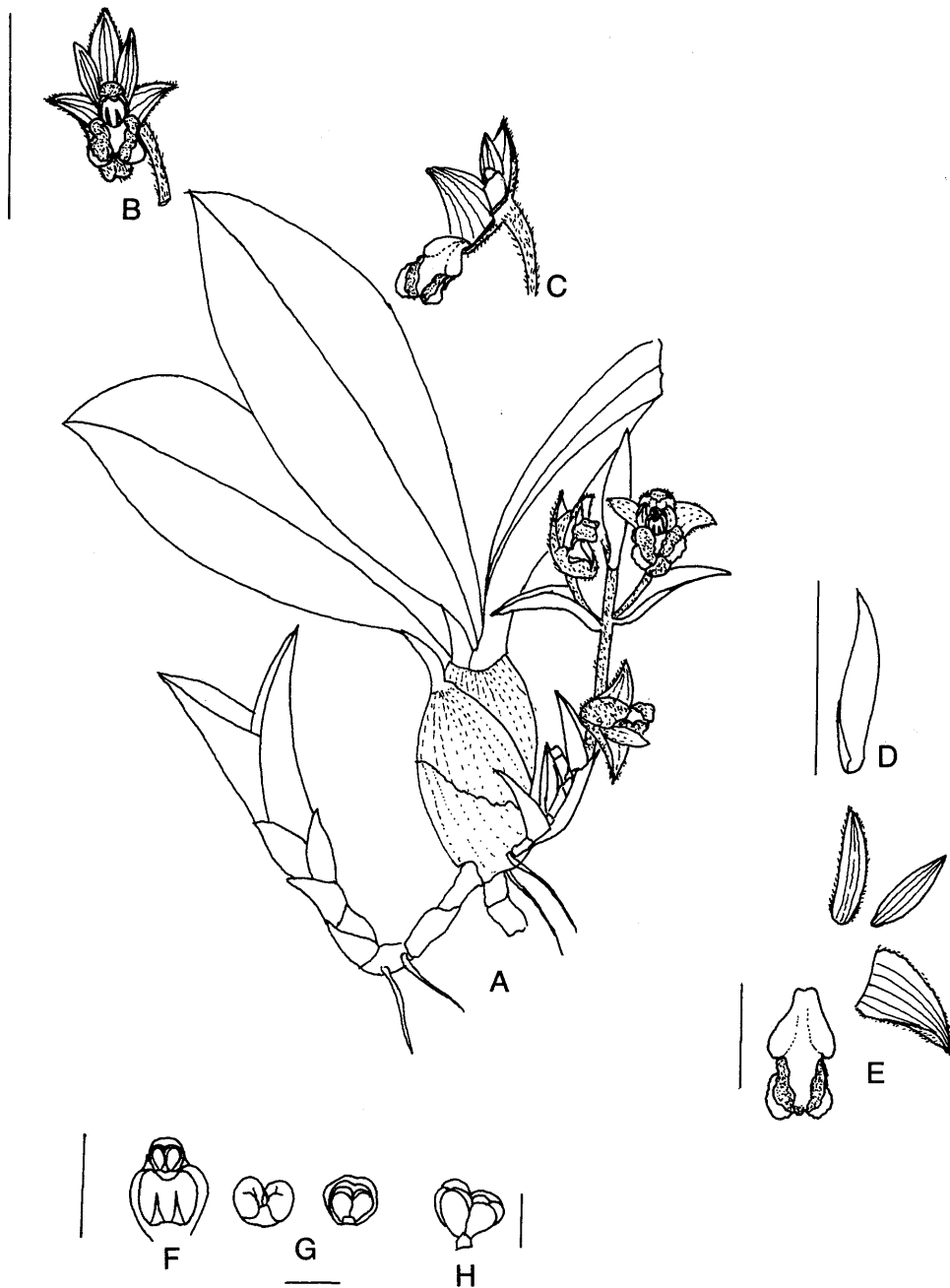


Fig. 1. *Eria nepalensis* D.M.Bajracharya & K.K.Shrestha. A: Habit. B: Opening of flower. C: Lateral view of flower. D: Bract. E: Spreading of dorsal sepal, lateral sepal, petal and labellum (from top to bottom). F: Column. G: Operculum. H: Polinia. Scales=4 cm for A–D; 1 cm for E; 4 mm for F; 1 mm for G–H.

Table 1. Comparison between *Eria nepalensis* and allied species in gross morphology

Characters	<i>E. latilabellis</i> Seid.	<i>E. lasiopetala</i> (Willd.) Ormerod	<i>E. nepalensis</i> sp. nov.
Pseudobulb	ovate, ca. 7 cm high	ovoid, compressed, fusiform-ellipsoid, 8–10 cm high	ovate, laterally compressed, ca. 4–5 cm high
Leaf	lanceolate, acute, 28 × 3.5 cm	oblong-lanceolate, acute, 7–16.5 × 2–5 cm	ovate-oblong, acute, 11–13 cm × 3.5–4.5 cm
Inflorescence	10–12-flowered, 12 cm long	6–9-flowered, 15 cm or above long	3–5-flowered, 10 cm long
Bract	narrow triangular, ca. 4 cm long, tomentose outside	lanceolate or oblong, 8–9 mm long	oblong-lanceolate, boat-shaped, 4 cm long, glabrous
Dorsal sepal	12 mm long	10–15 mm long	17 mm long
Labellum	side lobes not distinct	distinctly trilobed	distinctly trilobed
Terminal lobe	orbicular, slightly emarginate at apex, with triangular tip	oblong, acute	quadrangular, apex emarginate, or bifid, crenate
Lateral lobe	absent	short, truncate, erect	small, acute, erect
Stigmatic cavity	not known	entire, two flops at base of cavity	broad, two appendages inside cavity

nate, apiculate, epichile thickened at apex with a triangular callus and two kidney-shaped callus on both sides of epichile extending from base to junction of lateral lobe to terminal lobe, no other ornamentation on the disc; lateral lobes small, acute, erect, puberulous. Column ca. 0.4 cm, erect, glabrous, foot ca. 1 cm long; clinandrium collar-like. Operculum two loculate, globose; pollinia 8, laterally flattened, obovoid, attached with glandular caudicle. Rostellum simple, ligulate, bent towards stigmatic cavity. Viscidium ellipsoid; stigmatic cavity ca. 2 mm broad, two appendages present inside cavity.

Distribution: Nepal (known only from the type locality).

Flowering: August.

Eria nepalensis is related to *E. latilabellis*

Seid. and *E. lasiopetala* (Willd.) Ormerod, but it can be easily distinguished by the characters of pseudobulbs, inflorescence, and lobellum. The differences in these characters among the three species are shown in Table 1.

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D. M. バジラチャリヤ^a, K. K. シュレスタ^b:
ネパール産の 1 新種, *Eria nepalensis* (ラン科)

ネパールから *Eria nepalensis* D.M.Bajracharya & K.K.Shrestha (ラン科) を記載した. *E. nepalensis* は *E. latilabellis* Seid. からは, 苞が楕円状披針形かつ船形で, 外側が緑色で無毛であり, 唇弁が明瞭に三裂することで区別される. また, *E. lasiopetala*

(Willd.) Ormerod からは, 唇弁の中央裂片が四角状で, 先端が凹むか浅く二裂し, 鋸歯があることで区別される.

(^aネパール・トリブバン大学アムリト校,
^bネパール・トリブバン大学植物学部)